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Barbara A LaBarge

<u>PATENT</u> <u>Our Case No. 9683/174</u>

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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) Group Art Unit: 2617
)
) Examiner: Anthony S. Addy
)
) Confirmation No. 6036
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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. This preliminary amendment is being timely filed with a request for continued examination and a two (2) month extension of time, which are enclosed.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.